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HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE

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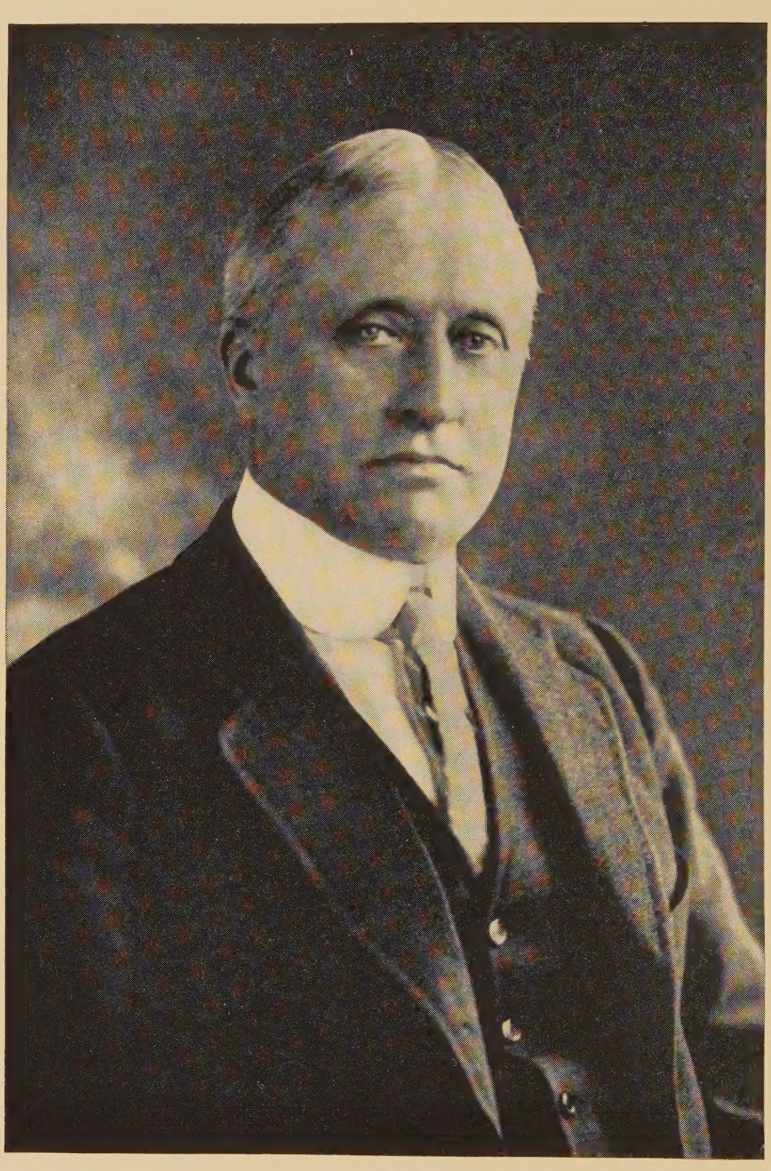

Archibald Cary Coolidge
March 6, 1866—January 14, 1928

HARVARD LIBRARY
NOTES

APRIL No. 20 1928

The University Library Council, at a meeting held on January 30th, adopted the following Minute on the death of Professor Coolidge.

THE Library Council desires to place on record an expression of the loss which the Library has suffered in the death of Archibald Cary Coolidge, Director of the Harvard University Library from 1910 to 1928. The first to hold this office, Professor Coolidge gave a creative interpretation to its functions and made it an essential part of the University organization. He kept before the University and its friends a broad and comprehensive idea of the Library and its possibilities, and had the satisfaction of seeing the Harvard Library under his administration reach an assured position among the great libraries of the world. This result was due in large measure to his own wisdom, vision, patient skill, and interest in every side of the Library's welfare. He encouraged equally the acquisition of unique special collections, the prompt and steady purchase of books asked for, and the improved facilities for work by members of the University and by visiting scholars. His own unfailing generosity stimulated the generosity of other donors, and his devotion called forth devotion and loyalty on the part of the entire Library staff. Professor Coolidge was an ideal Library Director, and did a unique and enduring work for scholarship and education. His associates in the Library bear him in deep and lasting affection.

It is a pleasure to record two recent gifts of money, one from Professor and Mrs. Hubbard which has been applied to putting into shape the Library's collection of park reports, and another from Professor Jewett for work on the Arabic catalogue. The acknowledgment of these is all the more heartfelt because so few who make contributions keep in mind that it is the work going on behind the scenes which makes the vast resources of our Library available to the student. Many research workers who use our Library realize the added value that comes to a collection because of a carefully planned and skillfully executed arrangement of the material and a satisfactory catalogue; but even those who appreciate the value know little of the cost. As to those who do not have occasion to come into the intimate touch that daily contact with our institution gives, it is safe to say that they never think of this phase of library work; as a result, donations almost invariably are for books and almost never for service. Professor and Mrs. Hubbard and Professor Jewett have now aligned themselves with Mr. Plimpton, Mr. Morgan, and the late Director of the Library by recognizing with material help the need for service. T. F. C.

* * *

The persistent initiative of Harry M. Lydenberg, '97, and the generous promises of help from the late Charles Chauncey Stillman, '98, J. P. Morgan, '89, and James B. Munn, '12, gave Harvard a place among the co-operating libraries which have produced 'A Union List of Serials in Libraries in the United States and Canada.' This bulky volume of 1587 pages, listing some 75,000 serial publications with the designation of libraries where copies of each one may be found, is by far the most important co-operative undertaking which has been produced by American libraries. Nothing comparable to it exists, as a means of facilitating the researches of students and inves-

tigators in every line of work. Of subordinate consequence, but not without interest, is the opportunity which this volume provides for comparing the resources of the various American centers of study. Mr. Coolidge became much interested in this comparison after Harvard's participation in the undertaking was assured, and watched the preliminary publications of the List carefully, with this in mind. The following figures have been brought together following a plan which he outlined.

In order to reach a basis for estimating the proportion of the whole number of titles which belong to Harvard, a cursory count was made of 256 pages. These were taken in groups of ten consecutive pages in each letter, with the exception that pages were skipped when they contained titles all of a single subject or all of one locality, which would disturb the general average. This exception undoubtedly results in raising the Harvard percentage. It makes this Harvard figure truer of all the titles of general and scholarly interest than of the total number of titles in the List. The difference, however, so far as can be judged, is not great. This count gave 10,237 titles, of which 3356 are credited to Harvard. This ratio, roughly one in three, ran so uniformly throughout the count, that it can be regarded as presumably true of the remainder of the catalogue. If it is, there are somewhat under 25,000 different serial publications in the Harvard libraries. As there are a good many duplications, the total number must be well over this figure. This gives some idea of the extent to which what are known as 'Continuations' cut into the funds that are available for the purchase of books. As most of them have to be bound after they come to the Library, this item adds considerably to the total to be charged to this account.

The letter J was selected for a more detailed analysis, because it contains groups, as 'Jahrbuch' and 'Journal,' in which Harvard ought to be strong, offset by others in

which it is relatively weaker. The total number of titles under this letter is about 1600.

A question frequently discussed concerns the relative advantages of a student working in New York, at Washington, or at Harvard. The answer is not found in the resources of any one institution, but in the community strength, i.e. the consolidated resources of all the libraries to which a student might have access in the metropolitan district, in the District of Columbia, or in the libraries of Cambridge and Boston. If the titles under the one letter J are a fair index, there is very little to choose between the three larger centers. Of the 1600 titles, 960 are in New York, 950 in Washington, and 925 in Boston and Cambridge. Libraries in Illinois have 650, and New Haven 515.

Of the Boston total, Harvard University supplies 655. Of these, the College Library claims 455. The Law School has 113 additional titles, the University Museums 56, and the Arnold Arboretum 32. The Fogg Museum and the School of Business Administration did not report their titles, because neither was important when the work on the List began. The Medical Schools also do not count, because they rely upon the Boston Medical Library, which contributes 184 additional titles. The Boston Public Library adds 61 not at Harvard, the Institute of Technology has 70, and the Art Museum and other collections that reported for the List make up the total.

All of these figures omit a certain number of periodicals which are to be found in practically every large library. Aside from these, the amount of overlapping is a matter of some slight curiosity. Comparing Harvard and Yale, Yale has 82 titles which are not recorded in any Boston or Cambridge library, while Harvard has 80 that are not reported as being elsewhere in the United States.

ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE

By George Parker Winship

'IT'S his salary cheque; he gives it to the Library, except when it is not enough to pay for the books he has asked us to buy.' This was old T. J. Kiernan's explanation of a slip of paper laid on his desk by a youthful instructor who hurried past into the stack, in the days when Gore Hall was the Harvard Library. Thirty years later, one of the boys trained by Mr. Kiernan remarked: 'It was funny about Mr. Coolidge, and some people might have thought it looked like he was snooping around, for he was always turning up all over the building, looking up the books he wanted himself; and he would come in at night just as we were locking up, on his way home from a dinner party or something like that, wanting to talk about the things we were planning to do. We wouldn't have stood it from anybody else, but you never minded it from Mr. Coolidge; you could tell him everything and you knew he'd be perfectly fair, and that he cared more for this Library than anything else in the world.'

Archibald Cary Coolidge got his schooling at Adams Academy in Quincy under the thorough William Everett; graduated from Harvard *summa cum Laude* in 1887; and finished off, academically, at Berlin and Freiberg, with postgraduate training under the diplomatic representative of the United States at Paris, St. Petersburg, and Vienna. Meanwhile, along with fluency in various languages, including that of diplomacy, he came to the opinion that anyone who understood what went on, past and present, at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, would hold the key to European affairs and to a good deal of world politics.

Temperamentally he was a sublimation of several of the most aristocratic strains of colonial Virginia, solidified by a

hardy New England stock deeply rooted in Boston and Salem. In obedience to this inheritance, he decided to become a Harvard professor, and returned in 1895 to the routine assignments of a junior appointment in the History department. Tales are still current of the History I of those days with its new instructor's lisp, and of smaller classes when he sat nervously twisting his legs around the rungs of his chair. There are also certain former denizens of the Gold Coast who have even more vivid recollections of going to his rooms in Randolph Hall, built by his family, for breakfast and sound worldly advice in time of stress, and finding him reading the St. Petersburg daily paper over his toast and eggs.

As a major historical opus, he thought of writing a life of Suleiman the Great. The idea had been in his mind while studying in Europe, and he had familiarized himself with the resources of the larger continental libraries for this subject. Re-established at Cambridge, he felt the need of books about the Near East, a subject which had not seemed important to those who had theretofore been responsible for the development of the College Library. Opportunely in his first year, 1895, Harrasowitz of Leipzig issued a special catalogue of Slavic books. Mr. Coolidge bought it practically en bloc, and gave the books to the Library because he found that they would be more convenient there than in his personal possession. With this as a nucleus, he began ordering books on all phases of the Ottoman question and on the eastern Mediterranean in general. It was not long before he discovered, when he went abroad on his holidays, that he had a better collection at Cambridge, for the purpose of writing his projected work, than he could command at any one place in Europe. Then, in 1899, he made Harvard's position secure by persuading his father to buy for the Library the books he wanted from M. Charles Schefer's Ottoman collection, when these were sold at auction in Paris. Later in the

same year the collection of Count Paul Riant, the historian of the Near East, was offered for sale. The Library officials contributed all the money they could spare from the available endowment funds and Mr. J. Harvey Treat made a substantial contribution, but Mr. Coolidge and his father provided the balance, about three-quarters of the whole sum needed to secure this, one of the most notable additions that has yet been made to the Library.

The results of this book buying fascinated Mr. Coolidge. He had transformed the library of an American college, so far as one small subject was concerned, into University rank, the peer of any other anywhere. Even disregarding the three major operations, in which there had been a certain amount of good fortune, he had brought together a thoroughly satisfactory working collection far ahead of any other in America. He had done this by taking advantage of such opportunities as arose in the booksellers' catalogues, involving the expenditure of a comparatively small amount of money at any one time. He perceived that what he had done for the Near East, could be done for every other subject in the Library, if only some one person with the requisite means and enthusiasm could be induced to become interested in it. And if this could be done, Harvard would then have a real University library worthy of its world-wide reputation as a great center of scholarship. As occasion served, he communicated this idea to his acquaintances, and Harvard benefited to a marked extent.

The Ottoman purchases of 1899 were supplemented two years later by a collection of Slovak literature gathered by Professor Leo Wiener during a trip made through southeastern Europe. In 1902, when Prince Henry of Prussia was the guest of the University, Mr. Coolidge contributed to the éclat of the occasion by announcing that he was going to give the Library 10,000 volumes on German History. He tried to hold to the terms of this promise, by having that number of engraved bookplates printed; but

after these were gone, he continued to maintain this department as second only to the national library at Berlin. The selection of the books for this Hohenzollern Collection kept him busy for a time, involving the sending of an extremely competent agent to Germany twice, with results that amply justified the experiment. The largest single purchase in this connection was the library of Professor Konrad von Maurer of Munich, which added largely to the Scandinavian section of the Library, as well as to its German History.

In 1907 he made it possible for the Library to take advantage of an opportunity to buy an important lot of French historical works. This led him to notice that this section was distinctly weak, but that it was in a position where it would not take much to bring it up to a creditable state. Both the French Revolution and the Commune needed attention, and twice, when Paris agents reported substantial collections on these subjects, he procured them. In 1908 he was appointed a delegate from the United States to the Pan-American Scientific Congress at Santiago de Chile. Mr. Clarence L. Hay, '08, accompanied him on this mission, and they commemorated their trip by purchasing the collection of a leading Chilean historian, who was also an intelligent bibliophile, D. Luis Montt.

What might be called routine gifts for subjects which he had more or less tacitly taken upon himself to look after included Polish history, India, the Dutch East Indies, Morocco, Algiers, and China. He made substantial special gifts for sets of French periodicals and serial publications of societies; for Italian periodicals, and for the Fine Arts. He was always buying Russian books whenever occasion offered, but made this section of first rate importance in 1922, when Mr. Hoover asked him to go to that country on a special mission. The results, considerable in many other ways, were of the greatest importance to the Library.

Mr. Coolidge did not have to carry on unaided. Edgar

H. Wells, '97, had already placed the Library under a heavy debt of gratitude, and he now took up the idea of getting people to make an annual gift for the benefit of a specific subject. The result of their effective collaboration produced impressive results. During the decade following the year 1900, annual gifts, of varying amounts, each for a specific purpose, were made by:

Francis R. Appleton, '75, for English literature;
Mrs. J. C. and Miss Hester Bancroft, for Japan;
Lawrence S. Butler, '98, for Paris;
Alexander L. Cochrane, '93, for Scottish and English literature;
Harold J. Coolidge, '92, for China;
James F. Curtis, '99, for Southern and Western states;
Lady Sybil Cutting, for Northern Italy;
William Bayard Cutting, Jr., '00, for Florence and Switzerland;
Ernest B. Dane, '92, for English literature;
James L. Derby, '08, for the Philippines;
Ellis Loring Dresel, '87, for German drama;
Mrs. Emil Hammer of Boston, for Scandinavia;
Mrs. William Hooper of Manchester, for Western history;
George Lyman Kittredge, '82, for witchcraft;
John S. Lawrence, '71, for biography;
James Loeb, '88, for labor periodicals;
Mrs. Daniel Merriman of Boston, for Spanish history;
Edwin S. Mullins, '93, for folklore;
Walter W. Naumburg, '89, for Shakespeare;
Mrs. George A. Nickerson of Dedham, for folklore;
William Phillips, '00, for London;
Horace B. Stanton, '00, for Molière;
Frank G. Thomson, '97, for English literature;
John Harvey Treat, '62, for the catacombs;
Lucius C. Tuckerman, '97, for Mexico;
Alain C. White, '02, for Dante;
Enrique de Cruzat Zanetti, '97, for Cuba.

These recurring gifts, extending more or less over ten years, revivified the Harvard Library. They rounded out the collections, strengthening weak spots and developing strong ones. They broadened the interests of everybody connected with the Library. The members of the staff had more work to do, and greater zest for doing it. More important than anything else, a group of alumni was built up, having a direct active interest in a part of the University which they could call their own. This did not become a continuing support, because the organization of the Library did not provide any means for keeping up the interest of individuals by regular dissemination of information. The various donors had, in many cases, only a reflected enthusiasm for their assigned subject, and those who had inspired it in the first place could not very well complicate friendships by the repetition of reminders. Consequently most of these annual donations fell off after a while, but during the period when they were coming in, they accomplished more for the Library than any similar effort that is on the records.

Mr. Coolidge himself never took kindly to money raising. For one thing, he very quickly found that those whom he asked to help the Library each had a pet charity of his own, and that they very properly expected him to do as he was done by. The inherited obligations of a person born on Beacon Street are considerable, and Mr. Coolidge did not shirk any of these. But he came to the conclusion that there was only one use to which he really wanted to put his own money, for his own personal satisfaction. He steadily cut down the outgo in other directions whenever his family and civic obligations would permit. He did not try to raise funds for the Library, because he found that the Library got more if he kept his own money to spend for its benefit.

When a new President took over the management of the University in 1909, he found a full-grown University Li-

brary on his hands. Not only had the College Library developed out of all semblance to the nineteenth century institution, but the other major departments, and a number of minor ones, were building up collections of books which it was easy to foresee would inevitably introduce administrative complications. The Corporation was responsible for all of these; it could not know very much about them individually; and the welfare of the institution as a whole obviously called imperatively for their intelligent direction as parts of a whole. To meet this situation, Mr. Coolidge was appointed in 1910 Director of the University Library.

Now that he is gone, each component part of the University Library feels the loss in one way or another. While he was alive, few of them realized that he knew of their existence. Each had its own staff and its own traditions, and there was rarely any occasion for interference. The two principal ones, the libraries of the College and of the Law School, entered into certain exchanges and agreed to various delimitations of overlapping subjects, which were of mutual advantage. The Business School Library recognized in him its loyal friend and trusted adviser, whose personal intervention was of inestimable importance when ticklish negotiations were forced upon it. For the rest, it was a word here and a suggestion there, dropped where they would do the most good and accomplish the quickest results, more often than not brought about through agencies that never guessed where the idea originated.

Mr. Coolidge had his office in the College Library building, and to it he gave a large share of his time. History being his own department, he began with this subject, taking up first the countries with which he was most intimately acquainted. After he became Director, he went carefully through the stacks, from one country to another, noting weak spots, and thinking up ways of strengthening them.

From the books he turned inevitably to the catalogue, driven by the mounting costs and the problems of dealing with a budget which had never been readjusted to the changing methods of University instruction. One momentous decision was made, to adopt the standard size of catalogue card and to print the Harvard cards for all books of scholarly importance which are not likely to be found at the Library of Congress or in the larger public libraries. Having come to this decision, he proved his belief in its importance by assuming a large proportion of the cost of it. There were other similar extensions of the library work which he found it easier to pay for himself than to persuade the Corporation that they were of sufficient importance to justify an increased appropriation. Enough of these continued from year to year, to tie up an appreciable amount of his available funds. More than once during the months of his illness, he reverted to the thought that the printing of the cards had reached a point where the end was in sight, only a few more years away, and that then he would once more be able to think about buying books on a scale that counted. Maintaining the closest contact with every phase of the Library's multifarious activities, he realized the pressing necessity of keeping up all the routine details of administration. But he became more and more certain that he was right in his persistent belief that the first thing is to get the books, always more and more books.

A SHEAF OF MEMORIES

FROM THE CATALOGUERS

By Thomas Franklin Currier

As in all other points of contact with our Library's work, so Professor Coolidge's ripe scholarship and unbounded energy left a deep and lasting impression on the organization of the card catalogues and the development of the shelf classification for that vast wealth of material that has poured in on us since the decade of the nineties.

In the historical sections he took particular interest. Taking up country after country, he enriched the Library's resources, making possible or stimulating the acquisition of masses of new material, and then, following close on the heels of acquisition, he spurred forward the reclassification of the old material as a part of the process of amalgamating the new. New classifications succeeded each other rapidly for Slavic Europe, the Ottoman Empire, Crusades, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, China and Japan, Oceania and Africa. In most cases the labor of classifying was carried out by research students whom he selected and for whose services he often assumed financial responsibility. His own unflagging enthusiasm and love for the work spurred them on and his personal advice guided them. Nothing can be perfect, and Professor Coolidge's mood and the technical experience of his helpers did not always lend themselves to strict consistency or to a complete elaboration of details; but the experience gained in one classification was utilized in the next, and taken as a whole the scheme combines to an unusual degree historical accuracy, and practical usefulness. Could it be co-ordinated, edited and printed, it would attract wide attention among experts.

During the period from 1900 to 1910 the many discussions of plans for a new library building took into account the huge problem of the card catalogues. Other large uni-

versity and reference libraries were at work on the same problems. The library of Congress was making its cards available to all who cared to buy; it had been pushing towards completion the huge job of recataloguing its vast collections; and California, Chicago, Yale, and other university libraries were in the thick of the fray. The Harvard card catalogue still clung to the small sized cards and had a subject catalogue unique in form. Changes were necessary in order to take advantage of the economies that would come from conformity to practices rapidly becoming universal in the larger libraries; but the cost of change seemed prohibitive. Professor Coolidge's energy was aroused and investigations were started that at last resulted in the replacement of the old by standard sized cards, the establishment of a joint union and official catalogue in our administrative rooms, the editing and printing, still continuing alphabetically, of selected titles that had formerly been inadequately treated by a staff swamped by huge accessions, and finally, as we moved into our new building, the transformation into 'dictionary' form of the old classed subject catalogue.

The writer well remembers how his breath was nearly taken away one day in June, 1914, by the sudden appearance of the Director and the utterance of these words: 'What will you do, Mr. Currier, if all the money you need is put at your disposal this summer to solve the subject catalogue problem?' Fortunately, Yale University Library had already been experimenting on a similar problem, and emboldened by the success there, I managed to gasp, 'I'd make a "dictionary catalogue."' The whole staff went to it, and for better or worse, the catalogue was transformed and guide cards printed, and the opening of college in the fall found it installed in the new cases.

With the dictionary catalogue once established in rough cast, Dr. Coolidge's interest and personal labor blazed the path for smoothing out rough places and improvements.

His address before the conference of the American Library Association at Magnolia shows how his plans for subject headings attempted to find a happy mean between the unthinkable expense of exhaustive completeness and the practicable answering of legitimate demands. It is now for us to carry on the labor without, alas! his enthusiasm, push, personal help, and cheery words of encouragement.

No characterization of Dr. Coolidge can be complete without some description of the way in which his personal vigor and his wonderful enthusiasm imparted itself to each member of the staff.

During the past few years it fell to Miss Titus's lot to edit subject headings with the Director. She says of this work: 'The Director not only outlined the changes, but patiently considered the merits of individual titles, asking me to explain technicalities of the cataloguing, as we read the cards together. He never could distinguish analyticals from series titles, or fathom the difference between red ink and black in the corporate entries. It was work which taxed the patience of a most enthusiastic reformer of catalogues and a willing assistant. But the tedium of card reading, cards large and small, typed, printed and manuscript, was always enlivened for the assistant by the Director's good humor, his rhythmical chanted instructions as we divided the cards into their piles "out," "keep," "cancel" — his entertaining comment on authors, his sudden indignation over "foolish cards," and his delighted amusement over finding gravely listed among maps such a prize as the following:

Ash, Thomas T., publisher.
The traveller's tour through the United States; a game performed with a teetotum and traveller. [Map.] Philadelphia, [18–?]
16 x 12½ in., folded in case.
The teetotum is lacking.

'One day last spring he said to me quite seriously and kindly, "I think we really have made some improvement, but we shall never get any credit for it."'

Miss Tucker pictures Dr. Coolidge as he used to 'come up the stairs from Floor B, on Saturday afternoons, with his arms full of books from the "uncatalogued reserve." He had asked if he might bring up ten, then twelve, then an armful of the books that he particularly wished to see on the shelves. Each Monday morning the pile was larger than that of the week before, and when I remarked on one occasion that his arms must be growing longer each week, he replied with a most solemn expression on his face: "My chin plays a very considerable part."'

Miss Ford tells how vitally he was interested in the progress of the printed card work, keeping watch letter by letter of the advance through the alphabet: 'When I reached S, he fully appreciated its difficulties. Even when confined to his home in his last illness, he had Miss Powers inquire every little while how far the last tab brought me. Shortly before his death, Miss Powers inquired as usual. Very emphatically I said, "I have just finished Sch, and am tremendously relieved; it seemed endless." Later, Miss Powers said she gave him my message, and he answered, "I feel the same way; I was afraid it would be as long as my illness."'

Miss Wood says: 'I would like to recall for a moment his vigorous passage through the room, and the feeling of alertness which it aroused. Sitting near the Order Department door, as I do, the first warning would be his well-known step and voice in that room. In a moment he would be standing over Miss Titus or myself, asking eagerly what came to be his stock question, "How can I make trouble for you today?" When he noticed (and when did he not?) that a shelf recently filled with books was empty, the pleased expression that came over his face and his words, "Making progress here, I see" were reward enough for moments of hectic work. The shelves beside my desk he termed my "show windows," and it afforded him considerable amusement when he finally discovered that I occasion-

ally shifted my exhibits without absolutely disposing of them, in a desire to show him signs of progress.

'Several of us who worked over subject headings with him felt that we received a liberal education, so concise were his comments on the books in question, showing often both a knowledge of the book, and an acquaintance with the writer. We complained that in an hour's work on his part he could make a week's work for us, but his guiding hand at work for that hour built up a logical and useful bibliography, leaving to us the carrying out of helpful suggestions and references, and the "scrapping" of the "dead wood" as he termed it, which it was his great delight to get out of the catalogue.

'His pleasure and appreciation were great when some such collection as the Escoto was sorted, or you stopped to help him weed out a few duplicates from the Alsace-Lorraine books, or rushed through a lot of Madagascar titles. And one got so one no longer dreaded having him ask, as he was very apt to do, "What are you doing now," scanning all the while very closely the books open on your desk, for as you went on to give him an itemized list of your activities, his invariable response was, "Good, good," and he would vanish through the Order Department door or down the room to another interview, still murmuring, "Good, good."'

The refrain 'Good' rings also in Miss Conklin's remembrance. Professor Coolidge frequently hastened with glee to her desk to announce the arrival of new additions to our collection of French revolutionary periodicals. 'He greatly enjoyed any reports of completion of sets, substitution of good sets for poor ones, and the adding of an appreciable number of new titles to the collection. "Good!" was his brief, but expressive, word of satisfaction.'

Miss Wilde tells of the Director's eagerness to report new additions of periodical titles to be sent on to the Union List of Serials, 'There are six new letter A titles for the

Union List in the Collating Room. Mail your holdings to Wilson Company before 5.30 P.M.' Then one day a large gift came from Professor Sachs. It was stacked in two foot piles on the end of the counter in the Collating Room. There was simply no space in which to move them about to ascertain their titles. Dr. Coolidge wanted me to list these periodicals for the Union List of Serials. He, himself, helped to turn the volumes around so that the titles on the binding would show, and then opened up spaces between the rows of books so that we could catch a glimpse of the titles in the center of this mass of material. In a very short time, due to Dr. Coolidge's help, I had noted all the titles, with their volumes and dates, needed for the list.'

From New York, Miss Miller adds an unsolicited word of appreciation: 'I shall always treasure my Harvard experience as the richest in my whole professional life and so much of it was due to Professor Coolidge! We had such a good time, working like beavers, but having so many laughs, and I remember my final day, when he kept me long after everyone else had gone, and at last I said that I really must go, as I had a dinner engagement, he said, "Oh, do let's finish Siberia!" and then waved good bye as I rushed down the steps.'

Mrs. Flanagan, whom we remember as Miss McIntire, writes: 'What comes most clearly to mind in connection with Mr. Coolidge's work with our department is the contagion of his enthusiasm. However little a subject might have hitherto appealed, when you worked with him on a group he managed to infuse you with his own interest to such a degree that its progress became a personal matter to you. Nor was the Library his avocation only, but his recreation as well! One sultry Saturday noon he came back for an afternoon's devotion to a new group just as I was leaving at closing time to go sailing. I asked him if he enjoyed yachting, and his reply, "The Library is my yacht," is illuminating.'

Mr. Thayer writes: 'The dominant impression Mr. Coolidge gave me was of one who was impatient of traditional routine which often defeated its own ends, and who loved short cuts. Once I remember that he segregated the old-style short cards, and, on discovering that many needed to have their classification changed, handed me the cards themselves, with instructions to get and reclassify the books. Had the cards got lost —! It was a rather unsafe method of accomplishing this end, but on this occasion it worked out.

'His scorn for obsolete subject headings was notable. "Nobody ever uses Barbary now," he would say, and substitute Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, or Africa Northern, as the case might be. Often the process of modernizing took long examination of the books, an expenditure of time which he never begrudged.

'Lastly I admired his zest for reading. His friends will recall his modest explanation of his vast knowledge, "Oh, I read, and I reread, and I browse around."'

And so with each one of us remain many memories of a dominant, vigorous and kindly personality which pervaded our whole atmosphere to such a degree that it is no wonder that a cataloguer caught Mr. Potter, one day, writing the words 'Harvard Coolidge Library.'

HARVARD MS. LATIN 34, *HISTORIA DE PRELIIS* (J^3 RECENSION)

BY FRANCIS PEABODY MAGOUN, JR.

'Hardly was he [Alexander] dead when legend became busy with his terrible name.... Around him the whole dream-world of the East took shape and substance.... More than eighty versions of the Alexander romance, in twenty-four languages, have been collected ... no other story in the world has spread like this' (*Cambridge Ancient History*, Vol. VII, 1927, p. 435). And of these fabulous tales none is more important than the Graeco-Egyptian romance of Pseudo-Callisthenes.

It is now well established and generally understood that the *Natiuitas et Victoria Alexandri Magni* (ed. Fr. Pfister, 'Sammlung Mittellateinischer Texte,' No. 6, Heidelberg, 1913), a tenth-century translation into Latin by a Neapolitan archpresbyter, Leo, from a (lost) so-called δ-group MS. of the Greek Pseudo-Callisthenes, thrice underwent expansion and elaboration. These elaborated versions of Leo's work pass under the generic title *Historia de Preliis Alexandri Magni* and exist in three main states or recensions: J^1, the earliest, was twice independently reworked, yielding recensions J^2 and J^3. The J^3 recension is of special interest to bibliophiles since in a somewhat abbreviated and desiccated form it was utilized for most of the famous early printed editions of the *Historia de Preliis*, of which the Harvard Library has those printed at Strassburg in 1486 and 1489.[1]

Although the J^1 and J^2 Latin recensions have already been edited, J^1 by O. Zingerle as an appendix to Vol. IV of 'Germanistische Abhandlungen' (1885) and J^2 by A. Hilka in his 'Altfranzoesischer Prosa-Alexanderroman' (1920), we have as yet no edition of J^3. A considerable number of

[1] Noted in *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*, Vol. I (Leipzig: Hiersemann, 1925), items 876, 877.

MSS. of the J^3 recension have, however, been classified, and their characteristics — most striking are 8 interpolations — set forth by Fr. Pfister in *Muenchener Museum* I (1912), 249–301. To the fifteen MSS. listed by Pfister (*art. cit.*, pp. 252, 253, 301) and a Glasgow MS. recently identified by G. L. Hamilton (*Speculum* II, 1927, 114, n. 9) should now be added:

Harvard *MS. Latin 34. Historia de Preliis* (J^3 recension), in Latin, on parchment: written in 14th century: country of origin unknown: 290 mm. x 200 mm., 12 leaves in double columns of about 50-lines each: with fine illuminated and historiated initial 'S' and 79 smaller initials in red and blue alternating: binding, half brown leather stamped to diagonal pattern on oak boards.

This MS. was formerly in the collection of John Eliot Hodgkin and was acquired by the Harvard Library in 1915. It is not described in Mr. Hodgkin's *Rariora*.

The MS. is not complete: fol. 1–10 make up a complete gathering: fol. 7–10 are out of place and should stand between fol. 3 and fol. 4. A second gathering of probably ten leaves is wanting. Fol. 11 and 12 are the last two of the MS.

Incipit: 'Sapientissimi quippe Egiptii scientes mensuram terre undasque maris et celestium ordinem cognoscentes . . .' (fol. 1^r).

Explicit: '. . . Duodecima Alexandria est que dicitur Egyptus.
Explicit liber prudentissimus Alexandri Magni.
Fortis Alexander sapiens, robustus in armis;
Laudandus Deus est in cunctis actibus eius' (fol. 12^v, abbreviations expanded).

Fol. 1–3, 7–10, 4–6, taken in this order, make up a fragment corresponding to §§ 1–69 (middle) of Zingerle and furnish us with rather more than the first half of the romance complete. On fol. 3^v, col. 2, occurs the first of the interpolations characteristic of the J^3 recension and corresponding to the text printed by Pfister, *art. cit.*, pp. 255, 256. Interpolations 2 and 3 follow on fol. 7^r, col. 1 and 2 respectively (cp. Pfister, *art. cit.*, pp. 256, 257 and 257, 258). In the Harvard MS. there is an omission of two sentences at the end of Interpolation No. 2 (fol. 7^r, col. 1):

Reuersus autem Tyrum inuenit hedifitium, quod in mare construxerat, funditus dissipatum. Nocte igitur subsequenti apparuit Alexandro in sompno quasi teneret uuam in manu. . . .

Fol. 6^v ends with the words '*spondemus enim uobis quod unicuiquam militi uestro in nostrum*,' and between this and

fol. 11^{r} there is a very considerable gap in the MS., corresponding to §69 (middle)–§117 (middle) of Zingerle.

Fol. 11–12 correspond to §117 (middle)–§130 of Zingerle; fol. 11^{r} begins '*Alexandri et eorum clippeos.*' On fol. 11^{r}–11^{v} is found Interpolation No. 8 (Throne and Crown of Babylon); cp. Pfister, *art. cit.*, pp. 269, 270. In the metrical list of peoples subject to Alexander the Harvard MS. exhibits some interesting variants and curious distortions:

Erat autem in sumitate ipsius lapis rubicundus, qui tamquam sol in nocte lucebat et in ipso throno erant ymagines constitute undique, in quibus erant huiusmodi uersus licteris Grecis et Latinis inserti et omnium nomina prouinciarum, que seruiebant Alexandro:

Pathicus et Medus, Indus mihi seruit et Arabs,
Asyricus, Cylicus, quoque Mesopotamia, Persa,
Italus, Ebreus, gens aspera Cananeorum,
Ethiopum gentes, Macedonia, Grecia, Cyprum (*fol. 11^{v}*),
Egiptus, Colcus, Caldeus, Capadocusque
Phemineum regnum, Libicus, Lyburnus, Ysaurus,
Affricus et Sardus, Smirnus, Pamphylia, Laudus,
Ephesyus, Thurus, Bocus simul et Phylatelphus,
Maurus, Nummudius populus, ditissima Moroch,
Anglicus, Scoptus, Brictonumque superba caterua,
Aralandus, Flandus, Cornealus et quoque Mo(n)guex (?),
Theothonicus, Francus, Gualdalia tota.
Yspanus sponte mihi nunc flexit sua colla.
Romanus populus et ferox doctus in armis,
Se mihi supponunt fieri sine crimine Tusci.
Apulus et Calaber, Sciculus mihi munera donant,
Sythicus, Yrcanus, Hermani, barbarus ordo,
Bulgarus, Albanus, Venerus, Talmaticus, Ister.
Ungarus et Affricus, Baochrus quoque, Seruia, Besus,
Cuncta mihi subdunt (*sic*); mihi Iuppiter imperat unus.

From here on to the end of the MS. the text is complete though it contains neither the lengthy moralizing reflection upon the deceased Emathian conqueror nor the epitaph printed by Pfister, *art. cit.*, pp. 271 ff. Near the end (fol. 12^{v}, col. 1), however, we find an elaboration of what is equivalent to §129 (end) of Zingerle:

Tolomeus alta uoce plorabat, dicens: 'Heu mihi, domine Alexander! heu mihi! karissimi (*sic*) mi, uir fortissime, nunquam tot homines in uita tua primisti (*sic*) quot nunc post mortem tuam occidis.' Milites autem Alexandri omnes plorantes et dicentes: 'Heu nobis miseris! quid post mortem domini nostri Alexandri facientes? quo ibimus? quas partes eligemus? quis dabit auxilium uite?' Et taliter plorando secuti

sunt Alexandrum usque i<n>Alexandriam. Et sepultus est Alexander itaque in sepulcro altissimo et mirifici op<er>e constructo. Fuit autem sepulcrum Alexandri ex auro purissimo constructum et triginti statuas aureas in se continebat, et ex omni genere lapidum pretiosorum erat insertum.

Sufficit hic tumulus cui non suffecerat orbis.

Fuit autem statura Alexandri mediocris . . .

It may be noted that the Strassburg print of 1489 (sig. f, fol. 5[r], col. 2) follows this passage through *mirifici opere constructo*.

Despite the gap noted above, the Harvard MS. is of value for the study of the J^3 recension of the *Historia de Preliis* and, so long as no edition of a J^3 text is available, of real convenience to American students for comparison (where it is not deficient) with the J^3 incunabula.

* * *

The University's collection of materials for the study of landscape architecture is now divided between the special library in Robinson Hall, under the management of Miss McNamara, and the stacks of the College Library, but as is the case with the divided Education Collection, little or no harm comes from this separation because of careful co-ordination of plans between the central and departmental libraries. The Robinson Hall library is a working collection of live material, arranged for the immediate needs of a body of practical students, and it is in charge of an expert whose duty it is to discover and acquire current literature. The College Library collection is historical in scope and concerns itself with the older books, pamphlets, and reports. It naturally receives from Robinson Hall, for permanent preservation, material no longer needed there. Aside from books purchased from Library funds, this section of the stack reveals many items which have come from Professor Pray, Mr. Warren H. Manning, the Olmsteds, and, a year ago, from the collection of the late George H. Parker, through the generosity of his widow. It was the receipt of the Parker collection that made acute the need

of reorganizing the material previously shelved and, thanks to the recent donation, this work is now accomplished.

* * *

THE Arabic catalogue, which Professor Jewett is helping to make more useful, is an experiment in the solution of a difficult library problem. The question of transliteration of non-Roman alphabets, always the battle ground of the linguists, becomes peculiarly irritating when it arises in the compilation of a huge card catalogue. In 1914 we said, 'Why force the scholar to transliterate when looking for a book? Why not provide him with an untransliterated catalogue of the books in his particular language?' In answer to our own question, we proceeded to establish the special card catalogues for books in Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Georgian, Hebrew (kept at the Andover-Harvard Theological Library), Persian, Siamese, and Turkish.

The Arabic Catalogue was the work of Dr. O. H. Gates, of the Andover Library, who contributed much time and energy to it. He could not, however, continue the oversight of it, because of pressing duties in a building at a distance from Widener. Like neglected children, our Arabic trays have in consequence suffered for lack of care, and have long needed combing and dressing up. This duty Miss Whitehead has, for some time, been eager to undertake. It has been hard to hold her away from it; but until Professor Jewett came to the rescue, she had to be restrained because so many other more imminent duties pressed her. Now she can have her own way.

These two cases are typical of hundreds of others. We who are at work are only too conscious of the many directions in which our Library might better respond to the demands made upon it; but until that happy day comes when a real endowment is given for work needing the bibliographer and technical expert, we must perforce, from time to time, do the best we can with such help as is proffered.

T. F. C.

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